GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
HOTLINE BETWEEN THE COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has accepted the Indian proposal for setting up a hotline between the Coast Guard Headquarters of the two countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and appropriate proposal prepared therefor;

(c) whether the Indian fishermen have not got protection from the Coast Guard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the Indian fishermen?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed that the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters could establish communication through International Subscribers Dialling (ISD) with the Maritime Security Agency Headquarters of Pakistan with effect from January 1, 2004. Communication links would cover matters related to the humanitarian aspects concerning fishermen of both countries.

(c) The Indian fishermen fishing within Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are protected by the Indian Coast Guard.

(d) Does not arise.